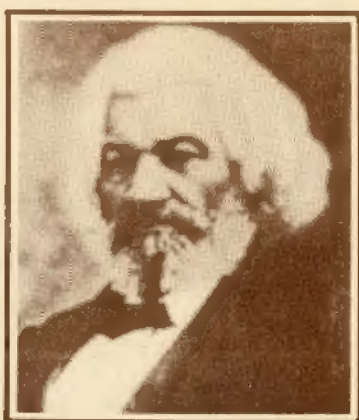


The African American Drama Company's

production of

*Martin Luther King, Jr., Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Haki R. Madhubuti,
Booker T. Washington, High John, Maj. Mingo Saunders & Malcolm X J.N.*



CAN I SPEAK FOR YOU BROTHER ?

A One-Man Show Depicting Black Leaders

Performer **Phillip E. Walker**

Director **Ethel Pitts Walker**

The Star-Ledger

The Newspaper for New Jersey

#

Newark, N.J. Monday, January 16, 1984

THE DREAM LIVES

Jersey celebrates Martin Luther King

By EDNA M. BAILEY

Amid a throng of dignitaries and supporters, Coretta Scott King yesterday celebrated what would have been the 55th birthday of her late husband—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—in New Jersey, the first state in the nation to pass legislation making his birthday a holiday.

The widow of the Baptist minister, who was the impetus behind the civil rights movement in the 1960s, attended a reception in her honor at Newark Symphony Hall. Co-sponsored by Symphony Hall, WNJR Radio and Savoy Records, the reception was immediately followed by a sold-out holiday concert, featuring gospel music.

Among the reception guests, many of whom worked side by side with Dr. King, was Gov. Thomas Kean, who was introduced as being the "only Governor in the United States who as a student in the 60s was a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference."

Rep. Peter W. Rodino (D-10th Dist.), an original sponsor of the proposal for a national holiday, was also in attendance. Effective 1986, the federal holiday was signed into law last year by President Reagan and will be observed the third Monday of every January.

In the meantime, however, yesterday hundreds of people from throughout the Garden State gathered at the reception in Newark to commemorate King's birthday with personal anecdotes, and public acknowledgment of his impact on the nation and the world.

Moderated by Symphony Hall President Milton A. Buck, the event featured a variety of speakers, all of whom praised Mrs. King for her efforts to "keep

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Photo by John Martini

Coretta Scott King talks with Gov. Kean before the First Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Concert